

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17 and 29-35, and amend claims 6, 12 and 18 as follows:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A process of claim 3, wherein~~ for reflecting a state of a software container having objects, comprising:

cyclically displaying a series of frames reflecting a state of the container as an animated sequence;

detecting an event reflecting a change in the state of the container, wherein the container implements a discussion forum;

determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence does not reflect the state of the container;

and updating the cyclical display based on the determination,
wherein the cyclical display reflects the numbers and types of the objects, and
the cyclical display uses color variations, tempo, motion, and change in size to reflect the number or type of the objects in the container.

Claims 7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ computer system of claim 9, wherein
comprising:
a memory including a software container and an animated indicator program, the
animated indicator program including computer code for:
monitoring the software container to detect an event reflecting a change in
a state of the container, wherein the container implements a discussion forum;
determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence
does not reflect the state of the container; and
generating a series of frames to reflect a state of the container based on
the determination;
a display on which a series of frames is cyclically displayed in an animated
sequence; and
a processor configured to execute programs in the memory,
wherein the cyclical display reflects the number and type of objects of the
container, and
the animated indicator program further includes computer code for using color
variations, tempo, change in size, and motion to reflect the number or type of the
objects in the container.

Claims 13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~of claim 15~~, containing instructions executable on a computer, the instructions when executed on the computer performing the steps of:

cyclically displaying a series of frames in an animated sequence such that the animated sequence reflects a state of a software container;

detecting an event reflecting a change in the state of the container, wherein the container implements a discussion forum;

determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence does not reflect the state of the container; and

updating the cyclical display based on the determination,

wherein the instructions for the cyclical display cause the cyclical display to reflect the number and type of objects of the container, and

further including instructions for using one of color variations, tempo, motion, and change in size to represent the degree of the change in the state of the container.

Claims 19-35. (Canceled)